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Australian Government
Department of Finance

MINISTERIAL MEETING BRIEF

Minister for Finance

Joint Meeting with Mr Bikash Koley, Vice President, Google Global Infrastructure with Treasurer, Ayres and Charlton

Meeting Arrangements:

Date/Time:	Tuesday 25 November, 5:00-5:30pm
Venue:	TBC

External Attendees and Organisation:	Bikash Koley, Vice President of Google Global Infrastructure (Bio at Attachment A) Hon Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer Hon Tim Ayres MP, Minister for Industry and Innovation of Australia Hon Dr Andrew Charlton MP, Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy
Adviser	s22

Purpose:

1.   Google have requested a meeting to discuss Australia's digital infrastructure and future.

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Katy Gallagher

Issues:

2.   Bikash Koley is the Vice President of Google Global Infrastructure, overseeing Google's infrastructure portfolio including network, land, energy and data centres. Mr Koley is responsible for Google's global infrastructure investments and the assignment of investment capital. The meeting comes off the back of Mr Koley announcing Google Cloud's investment of USD $15 billion in India to build India's first AI Hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

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Australia Connect & Pacific Connect (Subsea Cables) initiatives

4.   You may wish to seek an update on Google's Australia Connect and Pacific Connect subsea cable initiatives, including the recent announcement of Dhivaru, a new Trans-Indian Ocean subsea cable system.

    a.   Mr Koley announced Dhivaru on 18 November 2025. It will connect the Maldives, Christmas Island and Oman and builds on the Australia Connect initiative.

5.   In addition to Dhivaru, Google will be investing in creating a connectivity hub and data centre on Christmas Island. Reporting in November 2025 linked this to a cloud deal signed with the Department of Defence.

6.   Google Cloud's Australia Connect and Pacific Connect initiatives will deliver new subsea cables to increase the reliability, resilience and reach of digital connectivity in the Pacific.

    a.   Pacific Connect, announced in October 2023, connects Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawaii to Australia, Japan and mainland United States. Australia Connect, announced in November 2024, connects Darwin, Melbourne and Perth to Christmas Island.

    b.   On 18 November 2025, Google Cloud announced plans to build on the Australia Connect initiative by connecting Christmas Island to the Maldives and Oman.

    c.   Google Cloud is partnering with several Australian companies to deliver this expanded connectivity, including NextDC, Subco, Vocus and Telstra, plus state, territory and local governments in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.

    d.   Pacific Connect includes pre-installed branching units across the subsea cable system to enable other Pacific nations to connect in the future.

Australia's digital infrastructure (AI infrastructure and data centres)

7.   The Australian Government is about to release a National AI Plan. It will outline the Government's ambition to position Australia as a leading destination for data centre investment.

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a. The Hosting Certification Framework requires that Australian government data must be stored onshore and that ownership and control structures align with Australia's national security interests.

b. The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) will engage with large cloud providers to understand their capacity to support growing APS AI use with due regard to national security considerations.

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APS AI Plan sends a signal to industry

15. The APS AI Plan will give every public servant the capability and access to use AI, drive productivity, and ensure the APS leads on the economy-wide transformations that generative AI is driving. The plan reflects the Government's confidence in the APS to be a strong a confident user of AI.

16. The APS AI Plan signals to industry the need to invest in onshore compute to support the government in keeping Australians' data safe and secure.

17. The APS AI Plan includes an investment to expand the GovAI platform and establish Gov AI Chat to provide APS staff with secure, in-house AI tools

  a. GovAI is a whole-of-government platform enabling agencies to use AI securely, with guardrails for privacy, security, and records compliance. It supports integration of both commercial and locally developed solutions where appropriate.

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Clean energy solutions to support digital infrastructure initiatives

18. There are concerns about the environmental impacts of data centres. Google's clean energy solutions include:

  a. 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy by 2030, meaning every data centre runs on clean energy every hour of the day.

  b. A 'power-first' approach, where new data centres are built alongside renewable energy plants (solar, wind, battery storage) to minimise grid strain and transmission bottlenecks.

  c. Google applies AI via DeepMind to optimise cooling systems, reducing energy use by approximately 30 per cent. Its carbon-intelligent computing platform shifts workloads to regions and times where renewable energy is abundant.

  d. Google is piloting demand response programs, dynamically adjusting AI workloads based on grid conditions to ease strain and align with clean energy availability.

19. Over a recent 12-month period, the energy and total carbon footprint of the median Gemini Apps text prompt dropped by 33x and 44x, respectively.

20. NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) is a Government initiative providing certified sustainability ratings to support the efficiency of buildings across Australia. NABERS ratings for data centres provide an indication of the operational energy efficiency and environmental impact of data centres in Australia.

  a. The DTA's Data Centre Panel requires data centre providers selling to the Australian government to meet the requirements of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's ICT Sustainability Plan, comply with emission thresholds, use accredited Greenpower from renewable sources, have a 5-star NABERS rating and a roadmap to meet net zero.

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Background:

23. Google controls an estimated 20 per cent of the Australian cloud market, placing it in third position behind Microsoft and Amazon Web Services, which each hold around 30 per cent.

24. Google has approximately 2,190 employees in Australia and contributes an estimated $53 billion to Australian businesses each year.

Consultation:

25. Relevant areas in the Department of Finance, the Digital Transformation Agency, the Department of the Treasury and DISR.

Attachment:

Attachment A – Bio for Bikash Koley

Approved for electronic transmission
Paul Hubbard
Assistant Secretary
AI in Action
Risk, Claims and Regulatory Reform
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Bikash Koley
VP, Global Infrastructure

Bikash is currently the Vice President of Google Global Infrastructure (GGI)

As the Vice President of Global Infrastructure, Bikash oversees the physical infrastructure powering and connecting all of Google's consumer services, AI services, and Cloud services globally. This team is responsible for the strategy, operations, technology roadmap, delivery, and optimization for Google's global footprint of datacenters, energy and network infrastructure, across design, power, space, and fleet-wide demand planning.

The high performing infrastructure team drives Google's global energy, location, data center, and network strategy and acquisition. A key objective is to achieve our ambitious net-zero emissions and 24/7 carbon-free energy goal. The networking team designs, develops, and operates Google's advanced, intent-driven global network, which extends across more than two million miles of lit terrestrial and subsea fiber and over 3,000 edge locations in more than 200 countries and territories. Working alongside them, the capacity and demand planning teams develop and execute the portfolio strategy for our global infrastructure, ensuring adequate power, space, networking, and machine resources to support Google's current and future growth.

Prior to this, Bikash was the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Juniper Networks. In this role, Bikash charted Juniper's technology strategy and led the execution of the company's critical technology innovations. Specifically, Bikash was responsible for Juniper's telco cloud and virtualization, multicloud enterprise datacenter and software defined enterprise networking products and technologies.

Prior to Juniper, Bikash spent close to ten years at Google, where he was a Distinguished Engineer and the Head of Network Architecture, Engineering and Planning.

Prior to Google, Bikash was the CTO of Qstreams Networks, a company he co-founded. He also spent several years at Ciena Corporation in various technical roles developing DWDM and Ethernet technologies.

He is an industry-leading expert on network function virtualization, intent driven networking (IDN), multi cloud networking, warehouse-scale computing, and hyperscale network infrastructures.

Bikash received a BTech from IIT, India; and MS and PhD degrees from the Clark School at the University of Maryland, all in Electrical & Computer Engineering.